

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: Deep Injection Well Area Permits Dewey-Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project
Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 1:57:12 PM
Attachments: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

June 19, 2017

Valois Shea (shea.valois@epa.gov)
U.S. EPA Region 8
Mail Code: 8WP-SUI
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

EPA Regional 8.
Regarding:
Deep Injection Well Area Permits
Dewey-Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project
Custer and Fall River Counties, South Dakota

Greetings Ms. Shea.

My Name is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) I am a resident of Rapid City, SD. I am also a enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (however, this is my own personal statement and not to be a part of any "official" Tribal consultation). I am a mother and grandmother and I am deeply concerned about what future we are leaving for our future generations.

I say NO to the proposed Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project operation in the Dewey-Burdock located in the Southern Black Hills. I say NO to granting Powertech (USA) Inc. or Azarga Uranium, or any other similar mining operation any permits what-so-ever. This ISL uranium mining operation is Not in our Nation's Best Interest, nor is it in the best interest of South Dakota.

In my opinion any state or federal agencies approving such a scientific proven water contaminating operation IS WATER SUICIDE! I believe each of you know in your heart of hearts that uranium mining is BAD. It's already been scientifically proven that uranium is dangerous when brought to the surface, and is hundred times more dangerous to our water systems. Uranium needs to be keeping in the Ground. Wantonly contaminating our groundwater will leave thousands of people and their livestock without a viable water source. There are also millions of wildlife species, sacred species that depend on the aquifers and these tributaries too; what happens to them?

I say NO to the uranium mining in the Southern Black Hills. I say NO to granting deep well injection permits to use the Minnelusa and Inyan Kara underground aquifers. I say NO to granting this uranium mining company with an permit to be "exempt" from the Safe Drinking Water Act so that they can polluted this water and it will never be used for drinking water in the future.

Other Reasons I object are:

The HeSapa, or Black Hills, is Treaty Territory under both the 1851 and 1868 Ft. Laramie and under Law it is mandated to consult with tribal governments as Government to Government Relations. This includes following National Historic Preservation Act rules and regulations with the tribes. However, South Dakota and federal agencies involved in permitting this uranium mining have continuously ignored tribal nations and their expert testimony regarding cultural properties and sacred sites in the target area.

I also question the legality of the current permit application process as I believe the application by Powertech (USA)

should be null and void since the official name is now that of Azarga Uranium, and Azarga hold 100% ownership of the Dewey Burdock uranium project. However, on the EPA's public notice Powertech (USA) Inc. is listed as the operating company. If ownership has changed, shouldn't Azarga Uranium now be the "Official Company" in which Azarga would need to go through the official permit application process from the very beginning?

It is a known fact that several executives of Powertech previously worked with other uranium companies that were cited for mining violations. One company went bankrupt and left tons of radioactive mill tailings along the Colorado River in Moab, Utah. That mill is now a superfund site whose cleanup is funded by your tax dollars. Why should we trust them to clean up future operations? Is this why they want to send their waste water deep underground; Out of sight, out of mind?

And what about past mining operations that took place in the Dewey Burdock back in the 1950s, which still have not been cleaned up, or from my understanding are not even part of the Super Fund Sites. There are over 167 old mines in one area and literally thousands of old uranium operations have been left unreclaimed in the upper Missouri River basin. And these modern uranium companies employ people who were involved in past uranium operations.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the Madison and Minnelusa aquifers are vital water source for Rapid City and the surrounding areas and a uranium mining company wants to dump uranium waste in the aquifers, which opens that door of nuclear waste storage in the future, since they would already be dumping their waste fluids. And where does this mined uranium go? I'm guessing to the highest bidder in some foreign country like China, Russia, or somewhere unknown? So while they get the revenue, South Dakotans get the highly toxic wastewater. this is a asinine Idea that will hold catastrophic results.

I believe it's an outright sacrilege to pollute our water systems for the all mighty dollar. Let's remember that future generations are counting on us to protect these precious aquifers and the air. Let's leave a legacy that future generations will be proud of – one that will keep them healthy – Water Is Life.

Mni Wiconi means WATER IS LIFE.

Thank you,

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